

Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ**

Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Koretz Applauds the U.S. Senate for Defeating Bill to Shield Gun Manufacturers From lawsuits

S. 1805 would have voided state law by Koretz, which repealed special immunity statute for gun manufacturers.

(West Hollywood) Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) praised the sound defeat of a measure which would have shielded gun manufacturers and dealers from lawsuits. The bill failed in the U.S. Senate Tuesday on a 90-8 vote.

The vote occurred after the Senate had successfully passed two amendments to S.1805 earlier in the day to extend the ban on assault weapons and to close the loophole on the sale of weapons at gun show.

By a margin of 52 to 47, the Senate approved an extension of the 10-year-old ban on military-style assault weapons, handing a defeat to Republican opponents and gun rights groups that had sought to defeat the measure despite its broad support among law enforcement agencies.

Following the vote on the assault weapons ban, the Senate voted 53-46 to close what is known as the "gun-show loophole" and require people who buys firearms from private dealers at such shows to undergo background checks.

"In a surprise turnabout, the chief author of the legislation, Senator Larry E. Craig (R- Idaho), urged the defeat of his own bill, after succumbing to pressure from the National Rifle Association to kill the bill because of these amendments," stated Assemblyman Koretz.

"This measure would have negated a law I authored in 2001 to end the special immunity that gun manufacturers and dealers had enjoyed in the state for almost two decades," said Koretz.

In 1983, gun manufacturers had pushed through special interest legislation in California, which gave them an explicit exemption from product liability. Koretz and Senator Perata (D-Oakland) were joint

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Page 2

authors on AB 496/SB 682 that ended this exemption and holds gunmakers to the same common law principles of liability that govern all other manufacturers.

"Tuesday's defeat of S.1805 is a great victory for all the families of gun violence victims, who would have been denied their day in court, which is provided under my legislation," noted Koretz. "While we have dodged a bullet today, we must continue to be vigilant in stopping any future efforts this year to bring the gun immunity legislation back for another vote. It is clear that the proponents of S. 1805 are not going away," he concluded.

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